



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT OPERATIONS

Art Unit: 1742 (Examiner: McNelis, Kathleen A)
Applicants: STEPHEN M. POTTER
PEDRO GUTEMBERG QUARIGUASI NETTO
Serial No: 10/789,694
Filed: February 27, 2004
Title: COMBINED PRE-TREATMENT PROCESS FOR ENABLING FEED MATERIAL
TO BE CHARGED IN DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS

Charlotte, North Carolina
January 20, 2006

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Mail Stop RCE
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT, RESPONSE, AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED
EXAMINATION (RCE) PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.114**

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed August 10, 2005, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Amendment of the Claims begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5